



MARITIME SAFETY/SECURITY
INFORMATION BULLETIN
(MSIB) 04-26



December 29, 2004

Coast Guard Marine Safety Office San Francisco Bay
Department of Homeland Security

AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) REQUIREMENTS

Background: On October 22, 2003, the Coast Guard published in the Federal Register the final rule for Automatic Identification System; Vessel Carriage Requirements. These rules implemented the AIS requirements of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 and the International Maritime Organization requirements adopted under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended. The new regulations mandate the installation of AIS electronic equipment on certain vessels by **December 31, 2004**. The rules will impact certain small passenger vessels, towing vessels, offshore supply vessels, and other commercial vessels, both inspected and uninspected, navigating the San Francisco Bay Region Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Area. Vessels failing to comply with the AIS regulations on the required date may be subject to Civil Penalty or could possibly be restricted from navigating within the VTS area. Mariners should consult the VTS San Francisco web page: <http://www.uscg.mil/d11/vtssf/> for Frequently Asked Questions and other important information and procedures on using AIS in the VTS San Francisco Area.

For additional information relating to AIS including what other vessels these regulations impact, visit or call the Coast Guard MSO San Francisco Bay Domestic Inspections Dispatcher at 510-437-3119, or the Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service San Francisco Operations Officer at 415-556-2950, ext. 107.

Sincerely,

GORDON LOEBL

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard

Alternate Captain of the Port/Federal Maritime Security Coordinator